

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 13, and 14, amend Claims 1, 2, and 6-12, and add new Claim 15, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeding apparatus comprising:
 - a sheet supporting portion on which a sheet is placed;
 - a feeding member disposed above said sheet supporting portion to feed out the sheet;
 - a holding member configured to hold said feeding member for rotation, ~~and to move the feeding member~~ said holding member being movable between a feeding position in which said feeding member is in contact with the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion and a feeding stop position in which said feeding member is out of contact with the sheet;
 - a separating portion ~~for separating~~ configured to separate the sheet fed out by said feeding member and ~~feeding to feed~~ the sheet one by one;
 - an openable and closable cover having a guide member which guides the sheet fed out by said feeding member and forms a feeding path; and
 - a regulating ~~member provided between said separating portion and said feeding member and being~~ portion, which is mounted on the openable and closable cover and is movable between a regulating position, in which said regulating member portion regulates movement of the sheet between said sheet supporting portion and said separating portion, and a retracted position in which said regulating member portion does not hamper the feeding of the sheet, [;]

wherein when said holding member moves from the feeding stop position to the feeding position, said holding member moves said regulating portion from the regulating position to the retracted position, and

wherein when said openable and closable cover is opened, said regulating portion mounted on the openable and closable cover is brought into contact with said holding member so that said regulating portion is moved with respect to said openable and closable cover in a retracting direction from the feeding path.

a link member connected between said holding member and said regulating member; said link member being moved by said holding member to move said regulating member to said retracted position when said holding member moves the feeding member to said feeding position; and said link member being moved by said holding member to move said regulating member to said regulating position when said holding member is moved to said feeding stop position; and

an openable and closable cover having a guide member for guiding the sheet fed out by said feeding member;

wherein said link member is movably mounted on said openable and closable cover; and said link member is moved in association with a manual opening operation of said openable and closable cover so that said regulating member is moved to said retracted position by said link member.

2. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said regulating portion comprises a regulating member and a link member

connected between said holding member and said regulating member, said link member being moved by said holding member to move said regulating member, and

wherein said link member comprises a first link member movable in operative association with the movement of said holding member, and a second link member movable in operative association with the movement of said first link member to thereby move said regulating member to said regulating position or said retracted position, and

wherein said first link member or said holding member is provided with a cam shape, and an amount of movement of said regulating member moved through the intermediary of said second link member in accordance with the amount of movement of said holding member is varied by said cam shape.

3. (Previously Presented) A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said cam shape is such a shape that $H > h$, where H is the amount of movement of said regulating member until said feeding member protrudes downwardly from said guide member through said holding member when said feeding member feeds out the sheet, and h is the amount of movement of said regulating member after said feeding member has protruded downwardly from said guide member.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An image-reading~~ A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim [5] 2, wherein said guide member is provided above said original

supporting portion and below said feeding member located at said feeding stop position,
and

wherein said cam shape is such a shape that $H > h$, where H is the amount of movement of said regulating member until said feeding member protrudes downwardly from said guide member through said holding member ~~when said feeding member feeds out the original~~, and h is the amount of movement of said regulating member after said feeding member has protruded downwardly from said guide member.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An image-reading~~ A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said first link member and said second link member are movably mounted on said openable and closable cover, and with an opening operation of said openable and closable cover, said regulating member is moved to said retracted position together with said second link member.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An image-reading~~ A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said second link member is provided with a restraining portion for restraining said holding member to thereby regulate the downward movement of said holding member when said openable and closable cover is opened.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An image-reading~~ A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said openable and closable cover opens said separating portion.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image reading apparatus as recited in Claim 15 ~~any one of claims~~
~~4 to 9~~; and
an image forming portion for forming an image on the basis of
image information read by said image reading apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An image reading~~ A sheet feeding apparatus
according to Claim [4] 2, wherein said link member or said holding member is provided
with a second cam shape,

wherein said guide member is provided above said original
supporting portion and below a position of said feeding member when said holding
member is located at said feeding stop position, and

wherein said second cam shape is such a shape that an amount of
movement of said regulating member with respect to an amount of movement of said
holding member until said feeding member is protruded downwardly from said guide
member when said feeding member feeds out the original is larger than an amount of
movement of said regulating member with respect to an amount of movement of said
holding member after said feeding member is protruded downwardly from said guide
member.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An image reading~~ A sheet feeding apparatus
according to Claim [4] 2, wherein said holding member and said regulating member are
provided on said openable and closable cover, and

wherein said holding member is moved with respect to said openable and closable cover in association with the opening operation of said openable and closable cover so that relative positions of said openable and closable cover and said holding member are changed, and said link member acts on said openable and closable cover so that said regulating member is moved to said retracted position by a movement of the holding member with respect to said openable and closable cover in association with the opening operation of said openable and closable cover.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) An image reading apparatus comprising:
an image reading unit to read an image of an original; and
a sheet feeding apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said image reading unit reads the image of the original fed by said sheet feeding apparatus.